

Orange Factory Village, House No. 10  
Old Orange Factory Road (St. Rt. 1628)  
Durham  
Durham County  
North Carolina

HABS No. NC-9 E

HABS  
NC,  
22-ORFA  
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C.

HABS  
NC,  
32- ORFA,  
6-

# HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ORANGE FACTORY VILLAGE, HOUSE No. 10

HABS No. NC-9 E

Location: Old Orange Factory Road, Durham County, NC  
(Number 10)  
USGS NW/4 Durham North 15' Quadrangle, Universal  
Transverse Mercator Coordinates  
17.691100.4000070

Present Owner: Susanne Schneider  
Real Estate Administrator  
101 City Hall Plaza  
Durham, NC 27701

Present Occupant: Demolished, summer 1984

Significance: The Orange Factory houses, dating from the 1860's  
were built to accommodate employees of one of the  
earliest cotton mills in North Carolina. They  
assume historical significance as components of  
the mill complex and as the former nucleus of a  
company village, Orange Factory, North Carolina.

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1850's to 1860's
2. Original and subsequent owners: Pages 33-36 of Orange Factory Village, HABS No. NC-9, show the chain of title to the land on which the house stands.
3. Original plans and construction: No original drawings or plans have been located. Two story, three-bay wide frame house is original, but much altered.
4. Alterations and additions: Small addition on right side and wing on left side. Shed-roof front porch has replacement ironwork posts and cinderblock foundation. House now covered with aluminum siding with false shutters. No chimney remains. Frame and metal double carport on left side.

B. Historical Context:

Orange Factory, a small rural mill village located in the Little River valley, dates from the 1850's and provides an important picture of the early stages in the development of industrial life in North Carolina. Its collection of Greek Revival style workers' housing represents one of perhaps less than five remaining examples in North Carolina of pre-Civil War mill workers' housing. The remains of the cotton factory, water race system and grist mill, along with the dam, workers' housing with garden plots, supervisors' houses, schoolhouse, church, cemetery and well show the physical context in which the social and economic life of this self-sustaining community functioned. Orange Factory village is representative of the period when industrial sites were dependent on water power and thus located along the waterways of North Carolina in relatively isolated, rural settings. Unlike some early industrial sites which developed into larger towns, and other later ones which started out in more urban settings, Orange Factory has retained its small-scale, rural atmosphere indicative of the early mill villages in the state.

Prepared from materials cited in  
Orange Factory Village, HABS No. NC-9, by

Annette Liggett  
Environmental Coordinator  
City of Durham  
March 1984

(House Number 10)

PART II ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Constructed as part of the Orange Factory Mill complex, this worker's house typifies the wood framed, clapboard sided worker's houses which constituted mid-nineteenth century, rural vernacular architecture. In general, they are I plan, center hall, two story structures with one story additions.
2. Condition of the fabric: It was not possible to assess the condition of the original exterior siding as new vinyl siding has been installed. The original roof has been replaced with asphalt shingles. The overall condition of the remainder of the building fabric was good prior to demolition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The main section of the house is 43'-3" X 18'-3". The north wing measures 20'-4" x 13'-4". The west wing measures 16'-2" x 16'-2". The east wing measures 11'-0" x 6'-9".
2. Foundations: The foundations of the house are built of concrete masonry units.
3. Walls: The exterior of the house is believed to have been wood clapboard originally, but is now covered in vinyl horizontal siding with 8" spacing between the seams.
4. Structural system, framing: The structural system of the house is simple wood stud walls, wood floor joists and rafters.
5. Porches: The front porch is a cast in place concrete floor slab raised four (4) steps above grade, measuring 25'-1" x 6'-11". Four (4) steel columns with floral trellis work support a shallow shed roof which is hipped at the east end. On the north side of the house there exists a slab on grade porch covered by a roof extension of the north wing. This gabled porch roof is supported by four (4) steel columns with floral trellises. The rear porch measures 20'-4" x 7'-10".

6. Chimneys: A square, concrete block chimney with a precast concrete cap serving the oil furnace is located abutting the north elevation of the west wing of the house.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The front door is a six (6) panel solid wood door surrounded by a flat board wood architrave. The rear door of the house has three (3) horizontal lights over three (3) horizontal panels surrounded by a flat board architrave.
- b. Windows: The south elevation includes six over twelve light sash on the first floor of the main section and six over six double hung sash on the second floor of the main section. The north wing has six-light casement windows. The west wing has six-over-six double hung sash windows with plastic imitation shutters. The windows of the east wing are two and four light fixed sash.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: A roofs are simple gables with the exception of an end hip on the south porch. All roofs are covered with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice: All cornices are simple, one board, flush cornices with horizontal, shallow soffits.
- c. Dormers, towers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. Cellar: The house is constructed over a shallow crawl space.
- b. First floor: The main section of the house consists of two rooms; the living room is entered from the front porch; the adjacent room includes a stair to the second floor. The east wing includes a full bath and a small room. The north wing contains a kitchen/dining room. The west wing is a single room with two large closets.

c. Second floor: The second floor of the main section of the house is one large room.

d. The attic was unfinished space.

2. Stairway: The stair consists of three open steps in front of a large window which enters a door and becomes a 90° winder before it continues as a straight run of enclosed steps to the second floor. All steps are bare wood.

3. Flooring: The flooring throughout the building was painted, tongue and groove, pine flooring. Vinyl flooring has been installed in the kitchen area.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls and ceilings were plastered; walls were painted or papered; ceilings were painted.

5. Doorways and doors: Interior doors are six (6) horizontal, raised panel doors.

6. Decorative features: The only decorative feature was a very simple board fireplace mantel and surround.

7. Hardware: The doors were hung on simple cast butt hinges and operated with surface mounted rim locks with china knobs. Window sash locks were simple metal castings.

8. Mechanical equipment:

a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Heat was provided by an oil fired hot air furnace. Cooling is provided by portable window units. Ventilation is achieved through open windows.

b. Lighting: The house is equipped with wiring, outlets, and a few rooms have modest ceiling mounted light fixtures.

c. Plumbing: The house is equipped with plumbing including well water and a septic system.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The land slopes gently from west to east. The house is sited on a "corner" formed by two (2) dirt roads which connect to Old Orange Factory Road.

2. Outbuildings: Two (2) buildings, a garage and a storage shed are located on the north west side of the house and are in close proximity of the house and each other. Both

buildings are simple story; the garage is constructed of concrete block; the storage building is wood framed with clapboard siding.

3. Landscaping: The landscaping consisted of a few small, miscellaneous shrubs, and an open lawn, with no enclosures.

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

#### A. Early views:

1913 Sanborn Insurance Map

1937 Sanborn Insurance Map

#### B. Interviews:

Interviews are cited in Orange Factory Village, HABS No. NC-9, on page 46.

#### C. Bibliography:

Secondary and published sources: The major source for all material was Cultural Resource Investigations at Orange Factory, Libscomb's and Johnston's Mills, Durham Co., NC prepared by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc., Newark Delaware, in December 1983. Other sources were those cited in that document, as shown.

### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Due to the proposed construction of a water supply reservoir by the City of Durham, a Memorandum of Agreement was designed which would assure the mitigation of impact to defined significant cultural resources within the reservoir basin. These included archaeological resources consisting of three mill sites and a mill village, Orange Factory; the architectural resources at the mill village (workers houses), and the history and folk-lifeways of the villagers. The necessary data recovery operations, as specified in the MOA, were conducted by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. and qualified consultants. This was accomplished during the spring and summer of 1983. Data recovered concerns 18th and 19th century grist mills, a 19th and early 20th century textile mill operation, and the 19th, and 20th century workers village and community residents.

The combination of historical sites archaeology, historic documentary research, architectural recordation, and oral history studies, was generally effective in assuring the preservation of much of the cultural background and details of the rural North Carolina industrial complex.